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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

:

SAKAE ISHIKAWA ET AL.

: EXAMINER: BUTLER, M.

SERIAL NO: 09/848,764

:

RCE FILED: AUGUST 23, 2004

: GROUP ART UNIT: 3653

FOR: METHOD OF AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING RACK OPERATION, METHOD OF AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING MULTISTAGE RACK, ARTICLE CONVEYANCE AND STORAGE DEVICE, AND COMPUTER PRODUCT

RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

The following remarks are responsive to the Official Action dated November 17, 2004:

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 2 of this paper.